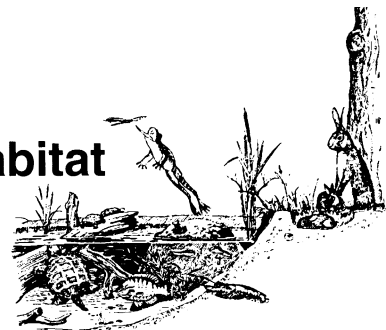


HABITATS

Pre-Visit Activity

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Activity | The Four Elements of a Habitat |
| Adapted From | YMCA Camp Kern |
| Setting | Classroom |
| Duration | Approximately one hour |
| Subject Areas | Language Arts, Science |
| Skills | Listening, Critical Thinking, Evaluation |
| Grade Level | K-1 |



Objective:

Students will be able to examine elements of a habitat.

WV-IGOs:

Language arts - K.3, 1.2
Science - K.3, K.27, 1.5, 1.28, 1.33

VOCABULARY

habitat
food
shelter
water
living space

MATERIALS

1. small box
2. food or something to represent food
3. small bottle of water

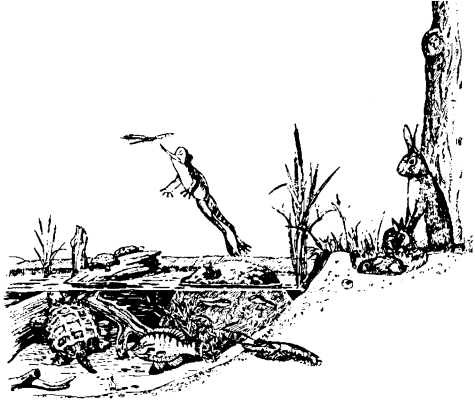
BACKGROUND

A habitat is the place where an animal or plant naturally grows. Within all habitats are four basic elements that must be present for that plant or animal to survive. All plants and animals need food, water, shelter, and living space.

In this activity:

- The food represents the food made by a plant or found by an animal. The food could represent a rabbit killed by a fox, a mosquito eaten by a dragonfly, or the nutrients used by a tree or other plant.
- The water represents an element that every plant and animal must have to survive. It can be obtained from rain, underground, a stream or river, or a lake or ocean.
- The box represents a shelter (home) that each plant and animal needs. The box could represent a cave lived in by a bear, a nest built by a bird, a burrow dug by a chipmunk, or the forest floor for a mushroom.
- The space within the box represents the space needed by all living things in order to have enough area to gather food, get water, and build or find shelter. The space could represent a mile of river needed by the great blue heron, the branch of a tree for a caterpillar, a meadow and nearby forest edge for a deer, and the ground and sky for the large old oak tree.





PROCEDURES

1. Review the vocabulary words and definitions.
2. With the food and water inside the box, show the box to the students and explain that the contents of the box represent a habitat. Inside the box is an example of the four basic elements that each plant or animal needs to survive in its habitat.
3. Ask "What do you think is in the box?" Give time for students to respond. If a correct answer is given, acknowledge it, show the element, and discuss it. Continue for a while to allow several students to respond to the question.
4. Show the remaining elements and discuss what they are and their importance to the plants and animals.
5. Have the students draw a picture of the food, water, shelter, and space for an animal on the "Four Elements of a Habitat" worksheet. The teacher can assign each student an animal or allow the students to choose.

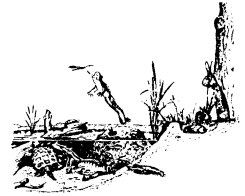
EVALUATION

Check the Four Elements of a Habitat Worksheet.



HABITATS

Four Elements of a Habitat Worksheet



Directions

In the center space, the student should draw or write the name of an animal. In the surrounding spaces, the student should draw or write an explanation of the four elements as they relate to the animal.

Shelter

Food

Animal

Living Space

Water



TEACHER NOTES

